



# Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies

*Serving the nation's largest publicly owned drinking water agencies*

**1620 I Street, NW, Suite 500**  
**Washington, DC 20005**  
**(202) 331-2820 • fax 785-1845**  
**[www.amwa.net](http://www.amwa.net)**

## **Board of Directors**

### **President**

**John P. Sullivan, Jr.**  
*Boston Water and  
Sewer Commission*

### **Vice President**

**Gurnie C. Gunter**  
*Kansas City Water Services Dept.*

### **Treasurer**

**David Rager**  
*Greater Cincinnati Water Works*

### **Secretary**

**Joseph E. Tait**  
*Metropolitan Water District of  
Southern California*

### **Mark Premo**

*Anchorage Water and  
Wastewater Utility*

### **Chips Barry**

*Denver Water Department*

### **Jerry N. Johnson**

*District of Columbia  
Water and Sewer Authority*

### **David L. Tippin**

*Tampa Water Department*

### **Remedios K. del Rosario**

*Atlanta Department of Water*

### **L. D. McMullen**

*Des Moines Water Works*

### **Richard Rice**

*Chicago Department of Water*

### **Harold J. Gorman**

*Sewerage and Water Board  
of New Orleans*

### **Patricia Mulroy**

*Las Vegas Valley Water District*

### **Julius Ciaccia, Jr.**

*Cleveland Division of Water*

### **Edmund Archuleta**

*El Paso Water Utilities*

### **Brian L. Ramaley**

*Newport News Waterworks*

### **Kenneth Merry**

*Tacoma Water*

### **David Denig-Chakroff**

*Madison Water Utility*

### **Diane VanDe Hei**

**Executive Director**

September 4, 2003

The Honorable Ken Calvert  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Water and Power  
Committee on Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA) offers its endorsement of H.R. 2828, the Water Supply, Reliability, and Environmental Improvement Act.

AMWA is an organization of the nation's largest publicly owned drinking water systems, represented within the association by their CEOs. AMWA members collectively serve more than 110 million people with safe drinking water.

### Competitive Grants Program

Many metropolitan drinking water systems are grappling with enormous infrastructure needs, estimated by the Water Infrastructure Network to be as high as \$50 billion per year nationwide. And to make matters worse, many of these communities, especially those in the Southeast and Southwest, are confronted with diminishing sources of fresh water. This requires communities to develop alternative approaches to quench the thirst of their growing populations, who must also compete with farmers and endangered species.

Among the most effective solutions available to communities facing shortages of fresh water are desalination, water storage and water recycling. These solutions are expensive, though, which is why your grant program in Title I is so important. It authorizes \$50 million in fiscal year 2004 and \$100 million each year thereafter. What's more, Title I encourages improved water use efficiency, improved water quality and regional solutions to water resource problems.

### The CALFED Program

It is extremely important that the CALFED Program be reauthorized this year, and we appreciate your commitment to moving the process along. Intense

The Honorable Ken Calvert  
September 4, 2003  
Page Two

pressure continues to stress California's existing water resources. The program, however, can never realize its potential without authorization and adequate funding.

We look forward to working with you on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Diane VanDe Hei". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Diane VanDe Hei  
Executive Director